GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:107
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
INDIA`S SHARE IN GLOBAL TRADE
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase India`s share in the global trade in seeds from the current 1% to 10%;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to achieve the target; and

(c) the time by which the target is likely to be achieved?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.107 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND JULY, 2002.

(a): Yes, Sir. Given the diversity of agro-climatic conditions, strong seed production infrastructure and market opportunity, India holds significant promise for export of seeds.

(b): Following measures have been proposed to achieve the target:-

(i) Quantitative restrictions for export of seeds and planting materials have been removed and exports liberalized.

(ii) Custom seed production is being encouraged for export of seeds and planting materials.

(iii) Private Seed Testing Laboratories have been permitted to issue orange certificate of International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) for export of seeds and planting materials.

(iv) The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers` Rights Bill, 2001 has been enacted inter-alia to encourage the export of seeds.

(v) Promotional programmes to improve the quality of Indian seeds to enhance their market acceptability will be taken up.

(vi) Testing and certification facilities will be established in conformity with International requirements.

(vii) Data bank is proposed to create to provide information on international market and on export potential of Indian varieties in different parts of the world.

(viii) A database on availability of seeds of different crops to assess impact of exports on domestic availability of seed will also be created.

(ix) Rules and regulations with regards to seeds have been proposed to be revised so as to facilitate the export of seeds and planting materials.

(x) Establishment and strengthening of Seeds Export Promotion Zones with special incentives from the Government will be facilitated.

(c): The target is likely to be achieved by 2020.